



CT S.B. 233: SUPPORT  
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**SUPPORT STATEMENT: Connecticut Senate Bill 233<sup>1</sup>**

March 7, 2022

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Osten and Representative Horn and Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee:

I am writing to indicate the support of our organization, the American Bail Coalition, for the passage of S.B. 233, an act to study the regulation of bail and bail recovery agents in Connecticut.

The regulation of bail and bail recovery agents is a topic in which we engage in the forty-six states in which surety bail bonds are written. As you can imagine, there is wide variation across the various states in the regulation of bail agents and bail recovery agents. Most recently, there have been continuing discussions regarding bail recovery agents, including trying to license such agents in states where there is no licensure and pursuing policies that will further professionalize the industry. In fact, in California, Assemblyman Reggie Jones-Sawyer recently introduced legislation to better regulate and improve the practice of bail recovery agents.

Regulating the bail industry seems like an end in itself, but it is important to remember, we act as a personal surety to defendants who want to get out of jail and exercise their right to pretrial freedom pending trial. A poorly regulated industry actually impairs the right to bail, and for that reason, we must strive to regulate the bail industry in a way that guarantees integrity and confidence in the industry. To do otherwise harms both defendants and the People of the State of Connecticut, who expect a defendant to be sitting in the court room when the jury is empaneled.

Since 2015, I have made it a priority of mine to advocate to further professionalize and improve the industry, and I believe S.B. 233 is a good government bill that will require a diverse group of stakeholders to look at the regulation of the bail industry in Connecticut and find opportunities for improvement. We certainly look forward to being a part of that process, and we look forward to the final product.

Please support this legislation, and we look forward to working with the Task Force moving forward.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Clayton", is placed over a circular DocuSign verification mark.

Jeffrey J. Clayton, M.S., J.D.

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Executive Director

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill\\_num=SB233&which\\_year=2022](https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=SB233&which_year=2022)